



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 2, 2010

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Good Week for Field Work: Weather conditions for the majority of the week were favorable for the continuation of spring activities. At the end of the week, large amounts of rain dumped on the mid state area. Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: plowing, planting corn, oats, soybeans, potatoes, and tobacco. Spring plowing is 73% completed, ahead of last year's estimate of 67% and the average of 71%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 2, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
4	12	72	12

Crop Progress: Corn is 38% planted, well ahead of last year's 20% and the average of 28%. Corn emergence is 5%, compared to 3% last year and 3% average. Barley is 57% headed, ahead of last year's 15%, and the average estimate of 28%. Oats are 82% planted, ahead of both last year's 78%, and the average of 80%. Forty-seven percent of oats have emerged which is ahead of last year's estimate of 37% and the average of 30%. Soybeans are 10% planted, ahead of both last year's 5% and the average of 5%. Potatoes are 33% planted, ahead of both last year's 20% and the average of 29%. Apples are 100% in full bloom or past full bloom, ahead of last year's estimate of 79% and the average estimate of 71%.

Crop Condition: State-wide wheat condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 63% good, and 11% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 2% poor, 18% fair, 62% good, and 18% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are 1% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 70% good, and 12% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 3% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 55% good and 8% excellent. Peach conditions are 4% fair, 81% good, and 15% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 25, 2010: While much of the country experienced near to above average temperatures, areas in the Southwest and Texas recorded temperatures more than 6 degrees below normal. In contrast, portions of Minnesota and North Dakota reached as many as 10 degrees above normal. Measurable precipitation fell across much of the Nation during the week, with locations in the central Rocky Mountains, Corn Belt, Delta, and Southeast receiving accumulations of four inches or more, improving soil moisture conditions in some places while hindering fieldwork and crop growth in others.

Corn: By April 25, producers had planted half of the Nation's corn crop, the earliest date on record that planting had progressed to the midpoint. At 50 percent complete, progress was 30 percentage points ahead of last year and 28 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting in the major corn-producing regions progressed rapidly during the week, as producers rushed to get seed in the ground on as much acreage as possible ahead of late-week rainstorms. Specifically, planting progress in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota, 4 of the 5 largest corn-producing States, advanced 39 percentage points or more during the week. Nationally, 7 percent of the corn crop was emerged by April 25, five percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence was most advanced in Texas; however, progress was 10 days behind normal as continued rainfall and soggy fields in the High and Low Plains further delayed planting. **Winter Wheat:** Heading of the winter wheat crop advanced 8 percentage points during the week to 14 percent complete by April 25, seven percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. Although double-digit delays remained in Arkansas, North Carolina, and Oklahoma, mostly favorable growing conditions promoted heading of 19 percentage points or more during the week. Overall, 69 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 24 percentage points better than a year ago.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 2, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 2, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	34	55	5	0.64	3	2.60	-0.86	12	206	165	451
Franklin	83	31	53	3	0.53	2	1.93	-1.84	9	160	120	408
Meadville	81	32	53	4	0.89	2	2.26	-1.26	10	161	132	404
Mercer	81	32	54	3	0.92	2	2.19	-1.41	9	177	136	431
Springboro	81	32	53	2	1.31	2	2.71	-0.64	11	154	109	367
Warren	82	30	51	2	1.05	2	2.16	-1.61	9	141	109	376
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	25	49	2	0.85	2	1.91	-1.71	9	125	108	325
Oswayo	83	22	48	-1	0.76	3	2.49	-0.88	10	104	79	285
Kane	81	25	49	3	0.45	1	1.38	-2.50	7	89	73	278
Laporte	81	31	51	-1	0.96	4	2.54	-0.97	15	140	90	367
Lock Haven	89	29	53	2	0.73	2	1.78	-1.52	6	194	139	474
Port Allegany	81	25	49	1	0.80	3	2.08	-1.29	9	114	89	317
Renovo	88	30	53	0	0.76	2	1.53	-1.77	6	177	122	455
Ridgway	83	26	49	2	1.10	2	2.19	-1.50	9	112	91	319
Stevenson Dam	86	29	51	4	0.91	2	2.26	-1.43	6	144	123	410
Towanda	89	36	52	1	0.89	2	2.02	-1.10	7	140	90	392
Wellsboro	82	31	50	3	1.18	2	2.18	-0.35	7	125	106	348
Williamsport	90	37	57	4	0.77	2	1.91	-1.54	7	264	183	568
Northeast												
Hawley	87	28	51	2	1.01	2	3.58	-0.09	9	101	75	323
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	36	55	3	0.86	2	2.20	-0.99	8	207	147	474
Susquehanna	86	32	51	4	0.85	3	2.28	-1.58	10	126	105	369
West Central												
Butler	83	29	53	2	1.08	2	2.50	-0.94	11	156	103	407
New Castle	84	29	54	3	0.88	2	2.45	-0.78	11	190	150	453
Slippery Rock	82	30	54	4	0.96	3	2.45	-0.91	11	181	146	445
Central												
Altoona/Blair	87	34	55	3	1.94	2	3.06	-0.33	8	226	154	492
DuBois	81	28	53	3	0.85	3	1.94	-1.64	9	208	170	465
Lewistown	90	36	55	0	0.62	2	1.78	-1.40	8	204	111	497
Middletown	88	40	58	2	0.68	2	1.70	-1.80	7	258	146	563
Prince Gallitzi	85	27	52	2	1.50	2	2.93	-1.61	8	146	110	392
Selinsgrove	87	33	54	2	1.13	2	2.29	-1.11	7	174	104	463
State College	87	35	55	3	0.66	2	1.28	-1.83	8	222	165	498
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	31	55	1	1.16	2	3.43	-0.35	9	201	119	489
Lehighton	88	36	54	0	1.44	2	3.46	-0.07	8	178	103	462
Matamoras	89	28	51	-3	2.00	2	3.10	-1.14	6	126	67	387
Mt_Pocono	85	32	52	5	1.10	3	3.51	-0.83	8	148	131	387
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	32	57	5	0.54	2	1.36	-2.11	7	307	234	580
Indiana_PA	84	30	53	0	1.04	2	2.27	-1.64	8	175	106	437
Myersdale	82	26	50	-3	0.71	3	2.24	-1.99	9	104	54	319
Mount Pleasant	84	26	54	4	1.07	3	2.25	-2.13	9	204	170	454
Pittsburgh Intl	83	32	57	4	0.75	2	1.76	-1.61	8	282	198	553
Connellsville	88	31	56	2	1.19	3	2.51	-1.56	10	244	156	516
Waynesburg	86	29	54	3	0.62	2	1.69	-2.02	8	198	135	453
South Central												
Biglerville	88	35	56	-1	1.05	2	1.96	-1.64	7	233	121	521
Everett	89	31	53	1	1.23	2	2.76	-0.81	9	156	94	423
Hanover	88	34	56	1	0.66	2	1.88	-1.72	9	232	120	520
Harrisburg_AP	88	37	58	2	0.85	2	1.89	-1.61	6	256	141	554
South Mountain	85	32	52	-2	0.66	2	2.10	-1.29	6	158	89	415
York	89	32	56	0	0.71	2	1.85	-1.98	8	207	91	491
Southeast												
Green Lane	89	35	56	3	0.92	2	2.44	-1.52	8	220	145	521
Hamburg	89	36	56	4	1.21	2	2.86	-1.24	5	229	176	526
West_Chester	91	30	55	-1	1.11	3	2.82	-1.29	8	210	103	502
Lancaster	88	33	56	2	0.74	2	1.86	-1.81	8	218	132	508
Neshaminy Falls	92	32	58	4	0.80	2	2.52	-1.75	9	230	146	534
New Holland	89	36	56	2	0.68	2	2.56	-1.11	9	244	158	534
Philadelphia	89	40	59	3	1.30	2	2.65	-1.23	11	320	193	637
Philadelphia NE	90	37	58	2	0.97	5	2.56	-1.32	18	274	147	587
Reading	90	37	58	5	1.34	2	2.81	-1.28	7	270	196	575
Sellersville	89	30	53	-2	0.93	2	2.64	-1.32	9	185	110	468
Willow Grove	90	37	58	4	0.66	2	2.15	-2.12	10	261	177	568

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - On Wednesday morning it was 30 degrees and frosty. Adams County producers were busy with plowing, discing, spraying, as well as planting corn and soybeans. Wheat and barley continue to grow, but some acres do not look good because of the wet conditions last fall and winter. Hay and pastureland continue to grow. Oats seeded early look pretty good. Fruit growers are assessing their fruit crops for damage because of the cold temperatures that we have experienced. Damage is now showing on tart cherries. Everything is at least 3 weeks ahead of normal. Producers are busy spraying their orchards. Some vegetable crops have been planted. Vegetable producers are worried about the colder morning temperatures. Strawberries are visible. The rain will be beneficial as long as it doesn't come too quickly.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Tree fruits are still "early". However, there has been no appreciable damage from the frost a few mornings ago. Growers are preparing to thin apples where necessary.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - We finished planting oats. We are beginning to plant corn and potatoes. It rained again on Sunday.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for spring planting. There was no rain.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - Many acres of corn were planted. Fields are top dressed.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - The weather last week was a mixture of little rain and dry periods. This did not prevent producers from finishing up planting small grains and starting on corn. Pasture conditions are rapidly improving, as well as the daily increase in spring calves.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA) - The freezing temperatures and frost affected grapes and apples.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Showers and cool weather early in the week slowed field work. Hot and windy days late in the week allowed for corn planting. Oats are finished planting. Alfalfa seeding is done. There was no serious damage done to the fruit crops because of the spotty frost.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - There was great weather all week. We got a lot of the plowing done, and planted about 25 acres of corn this past Friday and Saturday. It was very dusty when working the ground.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - April was a good month for planting, but it also may be the making for a short first cutting hay crop.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Farmers were busy planting corn and soybeans, as well as cutting rye and spraying fields. Lancaster County got heavy rains Sunday night. The rains will pose some problems for freshly plowed fields and newly constructed waterways.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart - A warmer and drier than normal spring has allowed corn planting to progress at a steady pace. A few farmers have started putting in soybeans, some have even taken first cutting of alfalfa.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST - Farmers were able to work in the fields all day Saturday. The Sunday rain only lasted for about an hour, and then dried. Fields are fitting up better than most years due to the lack of moisture and wet spots.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - There was cool rain early in the week that halted field work until the heat returned. Corn was being planted by Saturday. Monday, rain returned to put an end to field work. Good planting progress is being made in the fields for this time of the year. Grass hay appears to be short.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr - Sunday evening brought some much needed rainfall to most of the county. Growers made a great deal of progress in their planting activities this past week. Some early planted soybeans are emerging.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The recent rains were a help to the oats and alfalfa seedings. Alfalfa weevil damage is beginning to show. The barley has started heading and looks good. The main activities for the week were spraying, spreading manure and fertilizer, planting, and seedbed preparation.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA) - It was a cold week. Towards the end of week, farmers were able to get on better soils. Alfalfa is not looking as good as previous reports due to frosts and colder weather.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Some corn planting resumed by Friday. Other activities included spraying and fertilizer spreading. The bulk of the corn and soybean planting are set to begin next week after it dries.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 2, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	73	67	71
Corn, planted	38	20	28
Corn, emerged	5	3	3
Barley, heading or headed	57	15	28
Oats, planted	82	78	80
Oats, emerged	47	37	30
Soybeans, planted	10	5	5
Potatoes, planted	33	20	29
Apples, in full bloom or past	100	79	71

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 2, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	3	22	63	11
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	18	62	18
Timothy clover stand	1	3	14	70	12
Pasture	3	5	29	55	8
Peaches	0	0	4	81	15

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